

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2942

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2739

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CHILE: FOREIGN MINISTER ON SECRETARY 'S VISIT, AND
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 84076

1. WHILE PRESIDENT PINOCHET DID NOT PICK UP MY OFFER, THROUGH HIS AIDE, OF WILLINGNESS TO SEE HIM IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY'S POSTPONED TRIP, FONMIN CARVAJAL DID SO, AND WE HAD A VERY AMICABLE CONVERSATION APRIL 17. THOUGH DISAPPOINTED, FONMIN SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD SECRETARY'S PROBLEM. HE GAVE ME A PERSONAL RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S LETTER (TRANSLATION IN SEPTTEL) EXPRESSING FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE RATIONALE FOR THE CHANGE IN PLANS AND THE HOPE THAT GOC MIGHT SOON BE ABLE TO WELCOME HIM. CARVAJAL HAD BEEN INFORMED OF SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR TRUCCO. SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO LUNCHING WITH SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON MAY 6. HE PLANS ARRIVE IN TOWN PREVIOUS DAY.

2. I TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS MY PLEASURE REGARDING CARVAJAL'S SURVIVAL IN RECENT CABINET RESHUFFLE AND SAID IMPROVED BALANCE BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIANS IN CABINET WOULD IN MY OPINION HAVE A GOOD EFFECT ABROAD. CARVAJAL AGREED. HE EMPHASIZED THAT INCLUSION OF MIGUEL SCHWEITZER AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE WAS A GOOD
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AUGURY FOR PROGRESS IN REVISING CHILEAN LAWS TO PROVIDE

FOR APPROPRIATE ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES, WHILE PERMITTING GRADUAL NORMALIZATION OF LEGAL SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. SCHWEITZER WAS AN INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY OF GREAT STATURE WHOSE VIEWS THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT DISREGARD. COMMENT: INTERESTINGLY, AT MY LUNCH FOR PERSONNEL OF EL MERCURIO ENTERPRISES TODAY, SAME POINT WAS MADE STRONGLY BY PRESTIGIOUS EDITOR RENE SILVA AND OTHERS PRESENT.

3. I ASKED CARVAJAL HOW CHILEANS INTENDED TO HANDLE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT AT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE TOLD ME THAT GOC WOULD SEND STRONG DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON FULLY PREPARED TO ATTACK REPORT AGGRESSIVELY, CRITICIZING IT AS ONE-SIDED, SUPERFICIAL, INEXACT IN MANY PARTICULARS, AND OUT OF DATE IN THAT IT TOOK NO ACCOUNT OF THE MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHILE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD. CHILE WOULD RESIST ANY EFFORT TO TAKE SUBSTANTIVE ACTION ON THE REPORT. THIS COULD TIE UP OASGA FOR A FULL WEEK.

4. DESIRING TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION, HOWEVER, GOC HAD ARRANGED, FONMIN SAID, FOR ARGENTINA TO PROPOSE A POSTPONEMENT OF ANY ACTION ON IAHRC REPORT PENDING REPORT OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION GROUP (EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN SANTIAGO IN JUNE). FONMIN WAS CONVINCED BRAZIL AND URUGUAY WOULD SUPPORT ARGENTINE MOVE, AND EXPECTED THAT OTHERS MIGHT DO SO. AS A RESULT, HE IS HOPEFUL IT WILL BE UNNECESSARY TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE.

5. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD GIVE CHILEANS AN ASSIST IN CARRYING OUT THESE TACTICS. IF YOU AND AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD DECIDE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH OTHER OAS REPRESENTATIVES, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR KEEPING US ADVISED.
POPPER

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